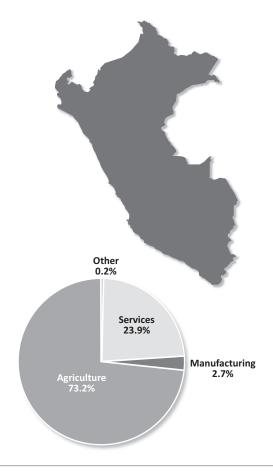
#### Peru

The Government of Peru has comprehensive prohibitions on the commercial sexual exploitation of children and child trafficking. However, gaps remain in social protection programs for the prevention and elimination of child labor, which do not reach some of the most vulnerable children. In addition, the worst forms of child labor persist in many sectors, especially in agriculture and urban informal work.

#### **Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance**

Children	Age	Percent
Working	6-14 yrs.	22.3%
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	96.6%
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs	22.9%



# Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor<sup>4077</sup>

Children are exploited in the worst forms of child labor in Peru, many in agriculture where they work long hours, perform difficult tasks, and are exposed to dangerous chemicals. For example, children work in the production of coca, cotton, rice, coffee, and sugarcane. They also work in the production of gold, working in mines where they are exposed to chemicals such as lead and arsenic. 4078 Children, mainly girls, work in domestic service in both rural and urban areas where they are vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse. 4079 In urban areas, children produce bricks and fireworks, activities in which they are exposed to harmful chemicals and extreme heat, and carry heavy loads. Children also work as street vendors and street performers, beggars, bus assistants, shoe shiners, car washers, and scavengers in garbage dumps. These types of urban informal activities can involve work with toxic substances, and carry the risk of injury as they often require high physical exertion and exposure to densely-transited areas.4080

Children in Peru are exploited in other types of activities constituting the worst forms of child labor. For example, according to an ILO study, girls who work in the mining industry are often sexually exploited. 4081 Forced child labor is a problem in informal gold mines, cocaine production, and transportation. Some Peruvian children, especially girls from the poorest areas of Peru, are trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation and domestic service through false offers of employment. 4082 Peruvian children are also trafficked internationally for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. Drug traffickers and the narco-terrorist group Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso—SL) use children to grow food crops and coca, as well as to transport drugs and precursor chemicals. 4083 There are also credible reports that SL is using child soldiers in the Apurimac-Ene River Valley (VRAE). Child sex tourism is a problem, particularly in Iquitos, Madre de Dios, and Cuzco. 4084 There have reportedly been some cases of Bolivian families selling or renting their children to work in agriculture and mining in Peru. Reports also indicate that children are recruited to transport drugs across the border between Peru and Bolivia.4085

## Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Law of Minor Children sets the general minimum age for employment at 14 and places some restrictions on the ability of children ages 14 and above to work legally. The minimum age for employment in nonindustrial agricultural work is 15; for work in the industrial, commercial, and surface mining sectors is 16; and for work in the industrial fishing sector is 17.4086

The Law of Minor Children prohibits night work for children under age 15 and requires children under age 18 to receive a permit from the Ministry of Labor in order to work. The Government adopted a list of hazardous occupations for children under age 18 which includes 26 types of hazardous activities, which are prohibited under the Law of Minor Children, such as night work, and work in industrial mining and fishing. The such as 15 to 15 to

ST TO	C138, Minimum Age	✓
ATTORY	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	CRC	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	<b>√</b>
	CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography	✓
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	<b>✓</b>
	Minimum Age for Work	14
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	15
	Compulsory Education Age	14
	Free Public Education	Yes

Peru's Constitution and other legislation prohibit all forms of compulsory labor, including forced labor, debt bondage, and servitude. Peru's Penal Code prohibits the prostitution of children, including selling, recruiting, using, and benefiting economically from the crime. The Penal Code also prohibits child

pornography, including its production, sale, use, and possession. The Law against Trafficking in Persons and Illegal Migrant Smuggling prohibits all forms of trafficking in persons and penalties increase significantly for child trafficking. The Military Service Law sets the minimum age at 18 and above, and prohibits forced recruitment into the armed services or any defense or armed groups. Peru's Decree 22095 prohibits the recruitment of children for the production, sale, and trafficking of illicit drugs.

### Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

The Government of Peru operates a National Commission for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor (CPETI), which is led by the Ministry of Labor and meets once a month for the purpose of coordinating government actions against child labor. Members of CPETI include the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, and the Ministry of Health, among others. 4094

The Ministry of Labor's Office of Labor Protection for Minors is charged with enforcing child labor laws. The Ministry of Labor employs 412 inspectors who have been generally trained on child labor issues, and 68 of these inspectors specialize in child labor enforcement. Municipal-level child protection offices coordinated with the Ministry of Labor to document complaints of violations of child labor laws, and referred cases to relevant social protection and legal services. Information was not available on the number of inspections conducted which revealed instances of child labor or on the number of sanctions for violations of child labor law.

Other agencies are responsible for enforcing criminal laws regarding the worst forms of child labor. The Peruvian National Police's Trafficking Investigation Unit, which employs 32 police officers, is charged with investigating cases of trafficking in persons and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. In addition, the Labor Administrative Authority (*Autoridad Administrativa de Trabajo*) has the authority to levy fines against employers who are guilty of trafficking minors. The Ministry of the Interior maintains a hotline to receive reports of trafficking in persons. In 2009, anti-trafficking officials

received training from a number of local NGOs and government ministries on detecting, investigating, and tracking trafficking cases. 4099 The National Police have an annual budget of approximately \$12,000 for investigating trafficking cases, which according to the Ministry of the Interior represents a significant limitation on investigating trafficking cases. 4100 During the reporting period, the Peruvian National Police's Trafficking Investigation Unit investigated 137 cases of trafficking in persons affecting 185 victims, 113 of whom were minors, a significant increase over last period. Seven trafficking cases involving minors resulted in six convictions during the reporting period. 4101 In the area of commercial sexual exploitation of children, 24 cases were opened; however, there is no information on convictions during the reporting period. 4102 Despite the Government's increased efforts to investigate child trafficking, law enforcement efforts did not reach many areas where trafficking is common, including in the Amazon region and highlands. In addition, while no formal referral system exists for child trafficking victims to social and legal services, authorities could refer child victims to government-operated children's homes for basic shelter and care.4103

### Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government of Peru has a National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor and a National Committee to Prevent and Eradicate Child Labor. The Plan, established in conjunction with the National Plan of Action for Children, focuses on three strategic goals: preventing and eradicating child labor among children under age 14, preventing and eradicating the worst forms of child labor among children under age 18, and protecting the wellbeing of adolescent workers between ages 14 and 18.4104

There are also some sector-focused policies that aim to reduce the worst forms of child labor. The Ministry of Women and Social Development (MIMDES) has a National Plan against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Boys, Girls and Adolescents. The Plan has four strategic components: establish and strengthen institutions, increase awareness about commercial sexual exploitation of children, establish a system to monitor and penalize perpetrators, and develop a system to support victims. The Ministry of Education adopted a policy directive "0086-2008-ED"

in 2008 that sets standards for tutoring activities in public schools, which includes a goal of combating child labor, especially the worst forms, including work in mines, quarries, brick factories, trash sorting, fireworks production, and work as street vendors and domestic service.<sup>4106</sup>

The Government of Peru and other associates and member governments of MERCOSUR are carrying out the Niño Sur ("Southern Child") initiative to protect the rights of children and adolescents in the region. The initiative aims to raise awareness of commercial sexual exploitation, improve country legal frameworks, and exchange best practices to tackle issues related to victim protection and assistance. 4107 Peru's Ministry of Trade and Tourism is part of the Joint Group for the Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism, which conducts prevention and awareness-raising campaigns to combat the commercial exploitation of children in Latin America. The Joint Group was created in 2005 and includes Ministries of Tourism from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela.4108

The Government of Peru has adopted the 2006-2010 United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which, among other goals, aims to build government capacity to combat child labor through effective policies and programs.<sup>4109</sup>

## Social Programs to Eliminate or Prevent the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In recent years, the Government of Peru has implemented national anti-poverty and employment training programs. The Government's *Juntos* (Together) Program provides cash transfers to the poorest and most vulnerable households in 14 of the country's 26 departments, and has an annual budget of \$170 million. Juntos reaches a total of over 420,000 households in rural areas of Peru, and conditions transfers on beneficiaries' participation in health and education services. 4110 However, the cash transfers are not conditioned on withdrawal of children from child labor. In addition, the Ministry of Labor operates the Construyendo Peru (Building Peru) program which offers temporary work and technical training to low-income households, and requires beneficiaries to commit to withdrawing children from child labor. During the 2009 calendar year, the Construyendo Peru program budget totaled \$37.3 million.<sup>4111</sup> The Ministry of Labor's *Mi Empresa* (My Business) program trains households on entrepreneurship skills and increasing family income. In addition, the Ministry of Labor runs a *PROJoven* (Pro-Youth) program which provides vocational instruction and on-the-job training to children and youth between the ages of 16 to 24 from low-income households.<sup>4112</sup> There is no available information on the impact of these national antipoverty and employment programs on children's school attendance and participation in child labor.

The Government also implements the *Programa Educadores de Calle* (Street Educators), which aims to connect working children and their families to educational and social services with the goal of withdrawing them from exploitive work and improving family welfare. The program has been in operation for 17 years, and the program reports that it has withdrawn 58,000 children since its inception.

The Government participated in donor-funded efforts to combat child labor. For example, it took part in a 4-year, USDOL-funded project to combat child labor which targeted 5,250 children for withdrawal and

5,250 children for prevention from exploitive work in the urban informal sector in Lima, Callao, Trujillo, and Iquitos. The Government also participates in a 4-year regional project to eradicate child labor in Latin America, funded by the Government of Spain. In recent years, the Government took part in USDOL-funded projects to combat child labor in mining, commercial sexual exploitation, and domestic labor. These projects worked with local civil society organizations and Government institutions to build their capacity to combat child labor. One project assisted the national Government in the development of the National Commission and the National Plan against Child Labor. The company of the National Plan against Child Labor.

Although the Government of Peru has implemented programs to address the worst forms of child labor through the Educadores de la Calle program, research has found no evidence that there are programs to assist children working in agriculture, mining, domestic work, and commercial sexual exploitation. Evidence also indicates that existing programs do not reach many children working in urban informal work given the magnitude of child laborers in this sector.

Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the reduction of the worst forms of child labor in Peru:

#### IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- Increase the scope of child labor inspections to detect the worst forms of child labor, including hazardous work.
- Make publicly available the number of child labor inspections carried out and resulting sanctions/ penalties imposed.
- Allocate sufficient resources to law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute cases child trafficking.
- Develop a structured system to refer child victims of trafficking to social and legal services.

#### IN THE AREA OF PROGRAMS:

- Create social programs to reach children working in hazardous agriculture, domestic service, and commercial sexual exploitation.
- Expand social programs to reach children working in the urban informal sector.
- Implement the Directive 0086-2008-ED, to reinsert child laborers into the education system through both formal and informal programs.
- Carry out assessment of impact of cash transfer program and employment training programs on children's school attendance and participation in child labor.
- Implement awareness-raising measures in border areas to prevent the child trafficking and the sale of children to work in agriculture and the recruitment of children for transporting drugs.

- 4077 Data provided in the chart at the beginning of this country report are based on UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity, School Attendance, and Combined Working and Studying Rates*, 2005-2010. Data provided are from 2000. Reliable data on the worst forms of child labor are especially difficult to collect given the often hidden or illegal nature of the worst forms. As a result, statistics and information on children's work in general are reported in this section, which may or may not include the worst forms of child labor. For more information on sources used, the definition of working children, and other indicators used in this report, please see the "Children's Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions" section of this report.
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- <sup>4079</sup> ILO-IPEC, Trabajo Infantíl Estudio de Opinión Pública en el Perú, 28.
- <sup>4080</sup> Ibid., 26 and 27. See also International Youth Foundation, *Prepárate para la Vida*, Project Document, Washington, DC, March 28, 2007, 7. See also Macro International Inc., *Children Working in Informal Sector Marketplaces: Lima, Peru*, Calverton, MD, January 12, 2007, 42.
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- available from http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/.
- <sup>4083</sup> U.S. Embassy- Lima, *reporting*, February 12, 2010. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010: Peru."
- <sup>4084</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010: Peru." See also U.S. Embassy-Lima, *reporting, February 12, 2010.*
- <sup>4085</sup> U.S. Embassy- Santiago, *reporting* February 25, 2010 See also U.S. Embassy- La Paz, *reporting*, February 1, 2010 See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010: Peru."
- <sup>4086</sup> Government of Peru, *Ley que Modifica el Artículo 51 de la Ley No. 27337, Código de los Niños y Adolescentes*, 27571, (December 4, 2001); available from http://www.mintra.gob.pe/contenidos/legislacion/dispositivos\_legales/ley 27571.htm.
- <sup>4087</sup> Government of Peru, *Ley que Aprueba el Nuevo Código de los Niños y Adolescentes*, 27337, (August 2, 2000), articles 53, 54; available from http://www.acnur.org/biblioteca/pdf/01163.pdf.
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- <sup>4090</sup> Government of Peru, *Codigo Penal*, articles 179-181, 181-A, 183-A.
- <sup>4091</sup> Government of Peru, *Ley contra la Trata de Personas y el Tráfico Ilícito de Migrantes*, Law No. 28950, (January 16, 2007), articles 153 and 153-A; available from http://white.oit.org.pe/ipec/documentos/ley trata peru 06.pdf.
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- <sup>4093</sup> Government of Peru, *Ley de Represión del Tráfico Ilícito de Drogas*, 22095, (February 21, 1978), article 57(c); available from http://www.digemid.minsa.gob.pe/normatividad/DL2209578.HTM.
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- 4095 Ibid.
- <sup>4096</sup> Ibid.

- 4097 Ibid.
- <sup>4098</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010: Peru."
- <sup>4099</sup> U.S. Embassy- Lima, reporting, March 23, 2010.
- <sup>4100</sup> Ibid. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010: Peru."
- <sup>4101</sup> U.S. Embassy- Lima, reporting, March 23, 2010.
- <sup>4102</sup> Ibid. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010: Peru."
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